from competent authority. As per the information received from MHA, the RAP/PAP regime is under review taking into account the security scenario in the country. As per the data received from the State Governments, number of foreign tourist visits to the 8 North-Eastern States, including Sikkim, during the years 2002,2003 and 2004 were 22047, 29478 and 39437 respectively.

Programmes to promote Meenakshi Temple

2931. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Madurai Meenakshi Temple is being considered for selection as one of the seven new wonders of the world;

(b) what are the programmes of the Ministry to promote the Meenakshi Temple as one of the major tourist attractions in Southern India either through prints or electronic media; and

(c) whether her Ministry is funding for the renovation and maintenance of the Temple?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Ministry of Tourism has no such proposal under consideration.

(b) Information pertaining to Madurai city including Meenakshi Temple is disseminated through publicity materials and through Ministry of Tourism website—www.incredibleindia.org. Tamil Nadu Tourism also promotes Meenakshi Temple as a major tourist attraction through print and electronic media.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration. However, Central Financial Assistance of Rs. 15.00 Lakh in 1998-99 and Rs. 9.00 Lakh in 2000-01 was sanctioned to the State Government for improvement of environs around Meenakshi Temple.

Decline in flow of tourist in Assam

2932. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state: